Dear Incoming FIG Student,

Congratulations and kudos for choosing the University of Oregon! Welcome to Eugene, and to our “Paging Dr. Darwin” FIG!

My name is Tyler Rietze, and I will be your FIG Assistant. I am currently a sophomore here at the university, and a Biological Anthropology major. I grew up in Portland, Oregon, and if you’re familiar with the area, I attended Sunset High School. My interests include evolution and ecology, anthropology, drawing, writing, and enjoying the great outdoors. Working together with me to lead this FIG is James “Josh” Snodgrass, one of our superb anthropology professors. He is from San Francisco, California, and his current research project involves the careful measurement of stress levels and health effects on native populations of Ecuador. His hobbies include hiking, cooking, and SCUBA diving, and he has an impressive stock of tales to prove it! We look forward to getting to know you personally as well!

As you know, “Paging Dr. Darwin” is a combination of two classes, bridged by a College Connections (ANTH 199) Course led by Professor Snodgrass and me! The first class is ANTH 175, or Evolutionary Medicine, taught by Professor Snodgrass. In this we will explore modern health from the viewpoint of evolution, in order to understand the ultimate explanations for today’s growing questions on health. The second class is BI 121, Introduction to Human Physiology. Professor Pat Lombardi will be teaching this, and providing a comprehensive overview of how our bodies work, “what makes us tick,” and how we maintain our homeostasis in a complex ecosystem.

To get all of you in the mood for evolutionary medicine, we’ve found a great read for you to leaf through over the summer—the third edition of “Why Zebra’s don’t Get Ulcers.” Brilliantly written, the book is a real-world application to all of the research on stress and its effects, and should make for some exciting talks at the beginning of the term! Each student will be expected to read the assigned Chapters 1, 2, 3, and 13, along with two additional chapters of your own choice. If you can’t find it at your local bookstores, it can be ordered off of amazon.com for fairly cheap.

We will both meet you for the first time during Week of Welcome, on Friday, September 21st, 2012. FIG students from the wide array of FIGs will be meeting at 11am in Columbia 150, and we will direct you and the rest of your group to our classroom! We will also meet again for University Convocation, and attend as a group, on Sunday, September 23rd. We’re excited to get to know you and introduce you to the campus. We will be glad to show you the resources available to students, as well as the locations of your classes this fall term!

We’re excited to meet you all! If you have any questions, or wish to chat over the summer, my email is trietze@uoregon.edu, and my cell phone is 503-819-7227. Professor Snodgrass can be reached by jjosh@uoregon.edu, and he will also contact you all over the summer! Please send us your email address, and we can talk about enthusiasm or concerns, answer questions, and get to know you!

See you during the Week of Welcome!

Cheers,
Tyler Rietze